

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 24-27 in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 24-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 were rejected under the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, 13, 24, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,248,236 to Hodgkins (the "Hodgkins patent"). Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the Hodgkins patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,685,985 to Brown *et al.*. Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Hodgkins patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,693 to Miller *et al.*. Claims 5-7, 10, 12, 14, and 16-23 have been cancelled. Claim 25 has been rewritten into independent form. Claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 24, 26, and 27 have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, ¶ 1

Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 were rejected as not being enabled. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 is moot in light of the amendments made to this claim. As each of claims 8 and 9 depends from claim 1, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn as well.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, 13, 24, 26, and 27 were rejected as being anticipated by the Hodgkins patent. Claims 5, 10, and 12 have been cancelled. Applicant

respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 is moot in light of the amendments to this claim. As each of claims 8 and 9 depends from claim 1, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn as well. Furthermore, as claims 24, 26, and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 25, the rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a)

Claims 6 and 14 were rejected as being obvious. Claims 6 and 14 have been cancelled.

Objection to Claim 25

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 25. In response, claim 25 has been rewritten into independent form.

* * * * *

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #102513.57840US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 14, 2007

/Michael H. JACOBS, Reg. No. 41,870/
Michael H. Jacobs
Registration No. 41,870

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:msy